

by way of this amendment. Claims 1, 6, and 10 are independent claims. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from these claims.

II. Claims Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,634 ("Dubbels") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,011,905 ("Huttenlocher"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claims 1, 6, and 10, Dubbels does not show or suggest a printing means that comprises "first request means which makes a first request for obtaining a resource from a server; structural means for determining the structural means for determining the structure of the resource based on the response from said server to said first request; setting means for setting pages to be printed based on the structure of said determined resource; second request means which makes a second request for obtaining structural data within said set pages to be printed; means for generating print data based on the second response to said second request; and printing means for printing based on said generated print data," as required by claims 1, 6, and 10. The Examiner acknowledges Dubbels does not disclose the means for determining a structure of the resource. In addition to this feature, Dubbels is completely silent to the remaining claimed features.

In particular, the claimed invention advantageously provides a printing means that shortens the time required for obtaining a "resource" from a server and efficiently uses a network without necessitating the use of a computer (or web browser). Typically, to print a resource from the world wide web (WWW), a resource is identified and the browser presents the resource on the screen, or stores the resource on a hard disk. Then, the browser converts the identified

resource into a print request at the user's invocation. This requires the computer to be operational, the web server to be accessed through the web browser, and after identifying the desired resource, a print request to be initiated.

The claimed invention, however, provides a printing means capable of directly obtaining a resource from a server and printing such a resource without a computer. In certain embodiments of the present invention, the printer initiates a first request for obtaining a resource, and then determines the page layout based on the first response to the first request. The pages are set based on the structure previously received and a second request is initiated for obtaining the structural data. The response from the second request is used to populate the pages. Thus, the print data may be generated such that the print request to the server originates at the printer, rather than the computer (or web browser). (See, e.g., page 3 of the specification.)

In contrast, Dubbels allows a user to relate a set of web pages based on a predetermined criteria and print all of the related web pages through the use of a web browser and computer. Thus, in Figures 3-6, Dubbels discloses the converse of the claimed invention. In particular, the web client (200), as shown in Figure 3 of Dubbels, includes a web client print mechanism (320) within a web browser application (210). Additionally, Dubbels states, "a web client print mechanism 320 is used to print individual web pages," (col. 5, l. 27). In Figure 4, the final step (480) recites, "print temporary conglomerate page using browser's print function." As noted above, the claimed invention provides a printing means without necessitating a computer, and particularly, without necessitating the web browser's facilitation of printing. The disclosure Dubbels is directly counter to this.

Huttenlocher fails to provide that which Dubbels lack with respect to claims 1, 6, and 10. Huttenlocher provides a method for structuring document representation and does not show

or suggest all of the limitations of the printing means as required by claims 1, 6, and 10 and discussed above. Thus, claims 1, 6, and 10 are patentable over Dubbels and Huttenlocher, whether considered separately or in combination. Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 11-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 6, or 10. Therefore, these claims are likewise patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Concluding Remarks

Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all pending issues and place the application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04783.010001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/2/03

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